



Original Article

Economic and Social Problems of Tribals in the Sahyadri Mountain Range of Akole Tehsil

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Abstract

The economic and social development of tribal society faces numerous challenges. Akole Tehsil is located in the western part of Ahmednagar district and is surrounded by the Sahyadri mountain range. The backwardness of the tribal community in this region, surrounded by the Sahyadri mountain ranges, is compounded by many problems such as poverty, unemployment, low land rights, natural disasters, environmental changes, and lack of education. Due to the ever-increasing poverty, the development of tribal society is not possible properly. The central and state governments are making a lot of efforts to bring the tribal society into the stream of development. Social, economic, and cultural development should be promoted. The tribal community mainly depends on primary occupation for their livelihood. He earns his livelihood from farming. Economic practices include traditional agriculture, hunting, and crafts. The livelihood of the villagers depends on this.

The social backwardness of tribal society includes illiteracy, lack of schools and education, ashram schools and their misunderstandings, student dropout rate, and apathy towards education. Due to fewer income sources in the tribal areas, their development is seen to be slow. When it comes to economic problems, the research has studied all the factors, such as family system, relationship system, marriage system, concept of religion, and lack of education. A large number of people face problems such as poverty, economic insecurity, hunger, exploitation, epidemics, and natural disasters. So that the attention of the society will be drawn towards their development.

Keywords: Economic, social, tribal communities, Economic Problems, Scheduled Tribes, Social problems

Introduction

While the tribals are the real owners of the country, they are being exploited in the social system of this country. Poverty and unemployment are high among them. The economic, social, and educational development of this society is seen to be very low. The development of tribal society has been less in comparison to other communities. The Sahyadri mountain range is mainly inhabited by the main tribal tribes of Koli Mahadev, Thakar, and Bhil. A total of 45 tribal communities live in Maharashtra and are largely dependent on agriculture, animal husbandry, and forest produce. Some tribal tribes live in caves in the mountains during this rainy season. The tribal community has its own traditional language, art, and customs. A large number of tribal communities suffer from illiteracy, superstition, traditional practices, ignorance, poverty, lack of technology, addiction, lack of civic amenities, poor standard of living, etc. The development of tribal society is not possible due to the negative political attitude, lack of capital, unemployment, and economic problems in this society. The benefits of the government schemes given by the government for the development of the tribals have not reached them. Similarly, there is no economic development of this society due to the non-implementation of schemes. There is a big difference in the life of tribal society today. What provisions have been made by the Central Government and the State Government for the overall development of the tribal society? Since the tribals live in the forest, should they be given cows, goats, and sheep through the project office? Traditionally, sheep and goats have been reared and lived their lives. A tribal community has been formed. Today, very little work is being done for the overall development of the tribal society. The social, economic, and geographical diversity of the tribal society in the Sahyadri mountain range is very visible.

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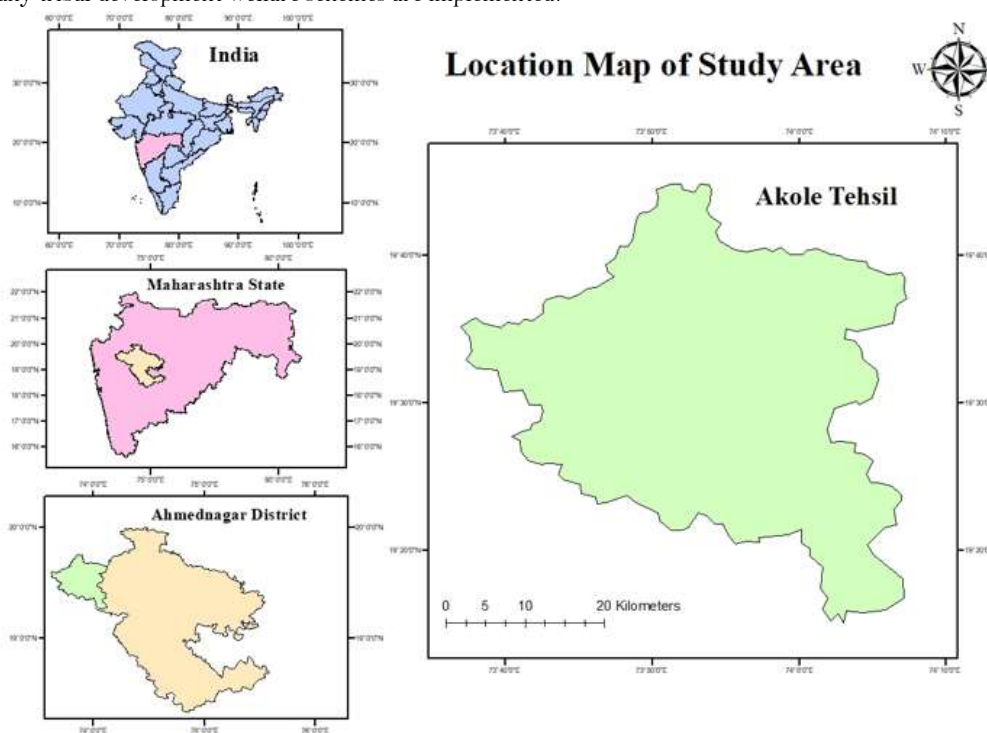
The society living in the hills is isolated from the advanced society. The tribal community is an important component of the Indian social system. It is the need of the hour that the tribal society should not be deprived of any development process if it wants to achieve all-round development.

Meaning of Tribal:

The Adivasis have a culture that is out of touch with an extremely remote society and which preserves its unique customs. They are the original inhabitants of the region. For thousands of years, nothing has changed. Tribal scholar Thakkar Bappa and Mahatma Gandhi have taught the word "indigenous" to the tribals. Albin said. Scheduled Tribes are mentioned in the Constitution of India. According to Andhre Benai, a group of people living in a particular region, speaking the same dialect, and living the same culture are called tribals. Every person's lifestyle, values, beliefs on religion, conduct, thoughts, customs, and traditions are important for the development of any society and the social and economic situation prevailing there. The level of the tribal society system is very backward compared to other societies. The tribal society system is connected to nature, and work is being done to preserve their culture.

Study Area:

Ahmednagar is the largest district of Maharashtra. Akole Tehsil in western part of Ahmednagar district has the largest tribal population. The geographical Location of Akole Tehsil are $90^{\circ} 30''$ N to $19^{\circ} 40''$ N latitude and $74^{\circ} 00''$ E to $74^{\circ} 05''$ E longitude, with a total area of 14.88.2 km². Kalsubai is the highest peak in Akole Tehsil. The height of this peak is 1646 meters. The historic Bhandardara Dam, which originates at Ratnagad, has been constructed. The dam has been named as the Raghoji Bhangre reservoir. Electricity is generated on the river. A dam was built to supply water for agriculture. The most biodiverse Sahyadri mountain range is spread in this region. The Integrated Tribal Development Project, Rajur, has been set up at Rajur. Under this office, many tribal development welfare schemes are implemented.



Location Map of Study Area

Methodology:

The secondary data collection method has been used for this research paper. It is based on the method of library and analytical research. Books, newspapers, and magazines have been used in this.

Problems of the Tribal Community:

1. Economic Problems:

The main occupation of the villagers is agriculture. Agriculture is traditionally practiced in rural areas. There is no income from this business. Our basic needs cannot be met by the products that come from it. As a result, a large proportion of the population lives in poverty. His financial problems are as follows:

1.1 Poverty:

Maharashtra has the highest number of families living below the poverty line. Most of the tribal families in the Sahyadri mountain range live below the poverty line. Their main causes are insufficient means of production and lack of resources in the local territory. Because of the lack of resources, there is a lack of income. Due to increasing poverty, the development of tribal society could not be done properly. Various schemes are being implemented by the government for the development of the villages.

1.2 Unemployment:

Unemployment is a major problem in India. Youth don't have jobs. Unemployment is one of the major problems faced by the tribal community due to lack of education, skill development, and employment. In addition, factors such as geographical diversity, social discrimination, and sources of economic income all have an impact on unemployment. Due to lack of employment, the economic development of tribal society is not taking place at the right pace. Unemployment makes it difficult to meet the basic needs of families. As a result, crime, addiction, and other social problems increase.

1.3 Lack of capital:

Lack of capital is a serious problem in tribal communities in rural areas. The economic development of this society is not systematic due to lack of capital. Attempts are made to start new industries or other businesses in tribal areas, but due to lack of adequate capital, they face a lot of difficulties. The economic development of the tribal community is stunted due to lack of capital. This has hampered their economic growth.

1.4 Traditional business:

Most of the occupations in tribal society are traditional in nature. For example, the main occupations are agriculture, hunting, fishing, logging, animal husbandry, wine production, farm labour, and forest product collection. But the income is very little. Their economic condition has deteriorated due to more labour and less remuneration. Because of their low income, there is no economic growth. Many tribal communities are dependent on agriculture. They cultivate traditional crops to earn their livelihood.

1.5 Indebtedness:

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1.6 Problem of shifting cultivation:

The tribals living in the hilly areas do not do permanent farming in one place, but after two or three years, they leave the farming of one place and migrate to another place. Because the tribal society is such a society that after a certain period of time the fertility of the land also decreases. So, they shift to other places and do farming. They go to a new place, cut down the trees of the forest, and start farming in that place. This cycle goes on for years. The income from agriculture is low. This process destroys forest resources. Due to this, the economic income of the tribal community is not increasing, and the pace of their overall development has slowed down.

1.7 Exploitation through industrialization:

Industrialization has led to the development of many industries in the country. New employment opportunities have emerged. But due to industrialization, the tribal society is being exploited on a large scale. The land of the tribals is being grabbed by big industrialists to set up industries. The traditional occupation of the tribals was affected, and they had to migrate on a large scale. This has resulted in financial losses to them. Due to industrialization, many industries were developed, but the illiterate, unorganized, ignorant tribals are being exploited. That is, the lives of the tribals did not prosper due to industrialization.

2. Social problems of tribal society:

People living in rural areas face many problems. Social problems such as tradition, addiction, and superstition, and illiteracy, deprivation of civic amenities, standard of living, and family size are rampant.

2.1 Lack of Education:

Education is the most important factor for the development of any society. Many problems have arisen in the education sector in the tribal areas. Even today, awareness about education in tribal areas has reduced to a great extent. Lack of education leads to many problems. The main problem of the tribal community is that due to lack of education, the rate of not attending school is high, and they do not survive in the stream of education. Tribal students face difficulties in education due to language barriers, shortages of teachers, and lack of physical facilities and educational facilities. Adivasi ashram schools do not have classrooms, drinking water facilities, toilets, educational materials, or playgrounds.

2.2 Addiction:

Most of the tribal population is engaged in traditional occupations. Wine making is a traditional occupation of the tribal community. Due to ignorance and lack of health awareness, tribals turn to addiction. More than 75% of tribal families are addicted to alcohol. Liquor was easily available in many of these villages. As a result, addiction is on the rise. 97% of alcoholics are below the poverty line, and 75% spend more than Rs 20 per day on alcohol. As a result, social development is not possible.

2.3 Superstition:

The identity of tribal culture is known as traditional culture. Tradition is an important part of the tribal way of life. Even in modern times, the tribal society is adopting this traditional method on a large scale. There is a lot of superstition. This has affected their health, education, and social life. Includes performing magic, *mantr- tantr*, and specific rituals. Some religious rituals and practices that are considered superstitious are still widely practiced in tribal societies. The tribal society is trapped in the mindset of superstition, and their social development is not happening.

2.4 Deprived of Public Amenities:

In most of the tribal areas of India, no basic amenities are provided. The tribal community does not have access to civic amenities like clean drinking water, health facilities, education, and communication. In the absence of these facilities, their social and economic development is stunted. As a result, their quality of life is reduced. Due to lack of infrastructure, the pace of development has slowed down.

2.5 Size of Families:

The number of families is increasing due to a lack of expected awareness about the social system and family planning stuck in the traditional system in the tribal society. Because of the large size of the family, the basic needs of all the children in the family cannot be met. This hinders their growth and development.

2.6 Standard of Living:

The living standard of the tribal community has deteriorated when compared to the advanced society of the country. Due to poor quality of food, malnutrition, traditional practices, illiteracy, inadequate means of income, and lack of social awareness, their vital needs cannot be met. This hinders their social development.

Remedial measures:

1. Effective implementation of various government schemes of the Central Government and the State Government for the economic development of the tribal community.
2. To launch an awareness campaign at the government level for the overall development of tribals.
3. To plan a massive awareness program to reduce the addiction in the tribal community.
4. To promote the physical development of Ashram Schools in tribal areas and to inculcate the spirit of education among tribal students.
5. To establish small and big industries in tribal areas and provide employment opportunities and raise their economic and social level.
6. To create awareness to free tribal society from superstitions, customs, and traditions.

Conclusion:

The measures taken for the economic development of the tribal community do not seem to be implemented. Therefore, the economic problems of the tribals have remained the same. Despite the provisions of the Indian Constitution for tribal development, their economic, social, and political development has not taken place. The level of ignorance and illiteracy in the tribal society is still increasing. Addiction is on the rise. Ignorance, backwardness, poverty, unemployment, and low wages in tribal society have not led to economic development. The government does not seem to be making effective efforts to bring the various development schemes to this community. As a result, the economic and social development of the tribal community is seen to be less compared to other communities.

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Conflicts of Interest

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